

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-30 (Canceled)

31. (Original) A method of sparing tissue levels of  $\alpha_1$ -antitrypsin in an animal, comprising administering an effective dose of a nitric oxide synthase inhibitor.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, in which the animal is a human.

33. (Original) The method of claim 31, in which the nitric oxide synthase inhibitor comprises: N<sup>G</sup>-nitro-L-arginine methyl ester, N<sup>G</sup>-nitro-L-arginine, N<sup>G</sup>-methyl-L-arginine, N,N'-dimethylarginine, N<sup>G</sup>-monoethyl-L-arginine acetate, N<sup>G</sup>-monomethyl-L-arginine acetate, N<sup>G</sup>-monomethyl-D-arginine, N<sup>G</sup>-monomethyl-L-homoarginine acetate, N<sup>G</sup>-nitro-D-arginine, N<sup>G</sup>-nitro-D-arginine methyl ester hydrochloride,  $\omega$ -nitro-L-arginine, L-N<sup>6</sup>-(1-iminoethyl)lysine, aminoguanidine, S-methylisothiourea sulfate, S-ethylisothiourea sulfate, S-aminoethylisothiourea sulfate, mercaptoethylguanidine, 2,4-diamino-6-hydroxypyrimidine, diphenyleneiodonium chloride, 2-ethyl-2-thiopseudourea hydrobromide, 2-iminobiotin, L-N<sup>5</sup>-(1-iminoethyl)ornithine hydrochloride, S-methyl-L-thiocitrulline dihydrochloride, *p*-nitroblue tetrazolium chloride, 3-bromo-7-nitroindazole, pentamidine isethionate, 1-pyrrolidinecarbodithioic acid, spermidine, spermine, spermine-NO, 3-morpholinosydnonimine-N-ethyl-carbamide, L-thiocitrulline, troleandomycin, 7-nitroindazole, hemoglobin, myoglobin, cytochrome V, S-nitroso-N-acetylpenicillamine S-nitrosoglutathione, or nitroglycerine, or pharmaceutically acceptable free bases thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

34-36 (Canceled)